

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are indicated with underscoring. The following list of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for holding and storing tools for use in a vehicle, comprising:

a storage body shaped and dimensioned to fit ~~[[with]]~~ within a spare wheel of a vehicle, said storage body having formed therein a jack storage space to securely receive a vehicle raising jack, a lug wrench-receiving space to securely receive a lug wrench, and a hollow storage well for holding and storing one or more various user-selected accessories; and

said storage well having a volume approximately as large as said jack storage space;

wherein a top surface of the storage body defines a substantially flat plane, said top surface including edges and medial portions of the storage body; and

wherein upper tool surfaces are equal with or below the flat plane in a stored configuration of said tools.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage body is shaped to fit securely in a hub of the spare wheel, wherein the storage body is configured and dimensioned with a sufficient depth to allow the jack storage space to nestingly receive a scissors jack or a hydraulic bottle-type jack therein, in a compact configuration of the jack; and

wherein the jack storage space extends from a side edge of the storage body to an opposite side edge thereof.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage well is substantially crescent-shaped in cross section.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage body is an integral, unitary member, and said jack storage space, said lug wrench receiving space and said storage well are formed as recesses in said unitary member.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage body is formed from foamed plastic.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a lower portion of the storage body is shaped to fit securely in a hub of the spare wheel.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage well extends substantially the full depth of the storage body.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said lug wrench-receiving space is defined in an upper surface of said storage body, and said jack storage space and said storage well extend from the upper surface [[much]] deeper into said storage body than said lug wrench-receiving space; and wherein said jack storage space extends from one side edge of the storage body to an opposite side edge thereof.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said storage body has multiple additional storage spaces defined therein and shaped to securely receive other tools.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said lug wrench-receiving space is defined in an upper surface of said storage body, and said jack storage space and said storage well extend into said storage body on opposite sides of said lug wrench-receiving space.

11. (Currently amended) A tool kit for a vehicle, comprising:
a storage body shaped and dimensioned to fit [[with]] within a spare wheel of a vehicle,
said storage body having formed therein a recessed jack storage space to securely receive
a vehicle raising jack, a lug wrench-receiving space to securely receive a lug wrench, and a
hollow storage well for holding and storing one or more various user-selected accessories;
a vehicle raising jack which securely fits in the jack storage space;
a lug wrench which securely fits in said lug wrench-receiving space; and
said storage well having a volume approximately as large as said jack storage space; and
wherein the jack storage space extends from one side edge of the storage body to an
opposite side edge thereof.

12. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein the storage body is shaped to
fit securely in a hub of the spare wheel, wherein the storage body is configured and dimensioned
with a sufficient depth to allow the jack storage space to nestingly receive a scissors jack or a
hydraulic bottle-type jack therein, in a compact configuration of the jack.

13. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein the storage well is substantially crescent-shaped in cross section.

14. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein the storage body is an integral unitary member.

15. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein the storage body is formed from foamed plastic.

16. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein said storage well extends substantially the full depth of the storage body.

17. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein said lug wrench-receiving space is defined in an upper surface of said storage body, and said jack storage space and said storage well extend from the upper surface [[much]] deeper into said storage body than said lug wrench-receiving space .

18. (Currently amended) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein said storage body has multiple additional storage spaces defined therein and shaped to securely receive other tools.

19. (Original) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein a lower portion of the storage body is shaped to fit securely in a hub of the spare wheel.

20. (Original) The tool kit of claim 11, wherein said lug wrench-receiving space is defined in an upper surface of said storage body, and said jack storage space and said storage well extend into said storage body on opposite sides of said lug wrench-receiving space.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the storage body is separable from the spare wheel by hand without requiring use of a tool.

22. (New) A tool kit for holding and storing tools in a vehicle, comprising:
a storage body shaped and dimensioned to fit within a spare wheel of a vehicle;
said storage body having formed therein a recessed jack storage space to securely receive a vehicle raising jack, a lug wrench-receiving space to securely receive a lug wrench, and a hollow storage well for holding and storing one or more various user-selected accessories;
the jack storage space extending from one side edge of the storage body to an opposite side edge thereof;
a vehicle raising jack which securely fits in the jack storage space;
a lug wrench which securely fits in said lug wrench-receiving space; and
said storage well having a volume approximately as large as said jack storage space;
wherein a top surface of the storage body defines a substantially flat plane, said top surface including edges and medial portions of the storage body;
wherein upper tool surfaces are equal with or below the flat plane in a stored configuration of said tools; and
wherein the storage body is separable from the spare wheel by hand without requiring use of a tool.